

## Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

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## TRANSIT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MICHAEL MAYO, SR. CHALLENGES REMOVAL OF BUS STOPS FROM SHOPPING CENTERS Says Issue Is One of Disability Rights

(MILWAUKEE) – Milwaukee County Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr., chairman of the Transportation, Public Works and Transit, today criticized the removal of Milwaukee Transit System buses stops from three shopping center stops, saying that the issue was a matter of disability rights.

The three shopping centers, Shopper's World of Brookfield on West Capitol Drive; West Allis Center on Highway 100; and Marketplace of Brown Deer on North Green Bay Rd. removed the stops earlier this month.

"Re-routing those buses away from these commercial strips is not only a big inconvenience for all riders, it represents a severe disadvantage for elderly and disabled riders," Mayo said. "Those with limited mobility will now be forced to travel further to get to their destinations.

"Moving bus routes by even two-tenths of a mile may not seem like much to an able-bodied person, but to a disabled or elderly person it represents a significant handicap."

Mayo questioned why the manager of the shopping centers, Developers Diversified Realty, removed the stops, saying that it appeared to be a maneuver to keep some people away.

"Those routes carry hundreds of people every day," he said. "Why would they want to remove those stops when people use them to shop at their stores?"

Mayo praised commercial property owners who work with MTS to make their stores readily accessible to all members of the public.

"Most commercial property owners realize that having a bus route leading to their establishment is a significant advantage for their business," he said. "I applaud them for knowing that transit is key to our economy, and all customers should have access to their establishments."